



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6435

January Session, 2015



***AN ACT STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR
RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and
4 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and
5 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, have a nameplate capacity
6 rating of twelve kilowatts or less, are installed on the roof of a single-
7 family or multifamily home, conform to the National Electrical Code
8 and State Building and Fire Safety Codes and do not exceed the
9 maximum building height authorized by the municipality where such
10 home is situated;

11 (2) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
12 town and city or consolidated town and borough;

13 (3) "Permit" means a permit to install and interconnect a residential
14 solar photovoltaic system to the electric grid;

15 (4) "Permit applicant" means a natural person or household seeking
16 a permit to install a residential solar photovoltaic system;

17 (5) "Inspection" means a structural, electrical and fire safety
18 inspection of the permit applicant's residential solar photovoltaic
19 system; and

20 (6) "Electronic submission" means the act of a permit applicant who
21 submits his or her completed application to a municipality for review
22 by means of electronic mail, facsimile or electronic application
23 available on a municipality's Internet web site.

24 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each municipality shall develop a
25 permitting process for residential solar photovoltaic systems or, if
26 applicable, amend the municipality's current permitting process in
27 accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section. Each
28 municipality may (1) develop and post on the municipality's Internet
29 web site a permit application for the installation of a residential solar
30 photovoltaic system, (2) allow for electronic submission of such
31 application, and (3) exempt such system from payment of permit fees
32 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 29-263 of the general statutes.

33 (c) Not more than thirty days after receipt of a permit application, a
34 municipality shall inform such permit applicant whether such
35 application is approved or disapproved. Review of the permit
36 application shall be limited to whether the residential solar
37 photovoltaic system meets all municipal, state and federal health and
38 safety requirements.

39 (d) Not more than thirty days after the installation of a residential
40 solar photovoltaic system, a municipality shall inspect such system.
41 Such municipality may contract with a third-party contractor to
42 perform such inspections. Such contractor shall have a current
43 Connecticut PV-1 limited solar electric contractor license. The
44 municipality shall disclose on its permit application whether it
45 contracts with a third-party contractor to perform the inspection and
46 the cost of such inspection. Not more than one inspection shall be
47 required for each residential solar photovoltaic system, unless a health
48 or safety issue is detected during the inspection of such system. A

49 municipality may perform a separate fire safety inspection if deemed
 50 necessary by the municipality. If the municipality or a third-party
 51 contractor performing such inspection makes a finding that a
 52 residential solar photovoltaic system does not meet municipal, state or
 53 federal health and safety requirements, such municipality may require
 54 the permit applicant to apply for a special use permit.

55 (e) Nothing in this section shall authorize any person to cause any
 56 home or structure located within a historic district established
 57 pursuant to section 7-147b of the general statutes to be altered, as
 58 defined in section 7-147a of the general statutes.

59 (f) Not later than December 1, 2015, the Connecticut Green Bank
 60 shall plan, implement and host at least one residential solar
 61 photovoltaic system permit training seminar for the purpose of
 62 providing guidance and information to municipalities seeking to
 63 develop a permitting process in accordance with this section. The
 64 Connecticut Green Bank may consult with and invite the Connecticut
 65 Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns,
 66 the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association and any
 67 other organization or representative of such organization to participate
 68 in the planning and implementation of the training seminar.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*